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THE
GROUND-WORK,
OR
FOUNDATION LAID,

(or so intended)


For the Framing of a New Perfect
LANGUAGE:

And an Vniversall or
COMMON WRITING.

And presented to the consideration of
the LEARNED,

By a Well-willer to Learning.



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GROUND-WORK

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The Introduction.



He expression of the minde or thoughts, is either by the Tongue or Pen most generally performed, in both these, as at present used, I have observed these inconveniencies.

I Concerning language, which, for the common use it hath with rationall creatures, should be in rules certain and easie, the contrary of which I have observed in most Languages at present in use amongst the Nations of these Western parts of the World, and more especially in those called Learned Languages, which are, as it were, become common Languages, by reason of the knowledge and learning by them divulged, and which should in all reason be the easiest and certaintest, both for the truer description of things, and the easier attaining of the said

Languages, which are but as the gates to Sciences, and therefore should admit easie and quick entrance to the things themselves, else it proveth a greater discouragement in Students, or at best, a losse of pretious time.

The difficulty appeareth in the multiplicity of forms of the variations of the *Verb* in its *Moods, Tenses, Persons* and *Numbers*: of the *Noun* in its *Cases*, and of the *Derivatives* from the *Radix*, distinguished by their *Terminations*.

The uncertainty is manifested by those many *Anomalies* which the Grammer mentioneth after its Rules, where having first taught Rules for speech, proceedeth to the increasing of them by the manifold *Anomalies*.

The expression by the Pen is either real representations of things, or notionall, or accidentall.

Reall, is when to expresse a man, we draw the picture of a man, &c.

Notionall or *Relative*, when we represent fiercenesse by the figure of a Lion, Watchfulnesse by a Dog, &c.

Accidentall, is by figures stated at pleasure, to signifie such things as the figures thereof have no relation thereto, and that is twofold: either literall, as when we represent the single sounds whereof words are composed by Characters at pleasure: Or secondly, when whole words, or rather things, their actions, qualities, with circumstances are described, and not sounds.

The former of these two is the most common in use, and of easiest attaining, yet having its inconveniences, as wanting in extensivenesse, being limited to the Languages, and joyntly travelling with them; so that what is written according to the sound of any Language, is not understood with-

without the knowledge of the said Language. But the latter hath this advantage, that what is written thereby, is understood by all alike; who notwithstanding understand not one the others Language, the Characters intending by a generall content, the representations of things, and not of sounds.

Which we see plainly demonstrated by the figures of Number in Arithmetick, as likewise in other common received Characters, as of Weights used by Physicians, &c. The preference of this last is here likewise recommended, and the Ground-work of both this and a new Language here following laid down, or at least so intended, all which is presented to the consideration of the Learned.

If what is done prove only a motive to others of effecting the aime and designe of the Author, he hath his desire, and remaineth their well-willers.

The



THE BEGINNING.



ALL words of speech may be comprised under three heads,

As words of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Action,} \\ \text{Quality,} \\ \text{Help,} \end{array} \right\}$ and these $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Primitive,} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Derivative.} \end{array} \right\}$ either

By words of action, we mean such as are distinguished by the word [*Verb*,] or by circumlocution, *words signifying with time*, as the words *to move, to live, to eat, to suffer*. The denomination of words of action may seem somewhat improper, because some words coming thereunder, have rather a passive signification, as *to suffer, &c.* but we shall not herein be too nice, it bearing no great inconvenience to our intended purpose.

By words of quality, we intend such as express any circumstance of a thing, or that which distinguisheth one substance from another, as *hot, cold, dry, sharp*.

By

By words of help we intend such as expresse time, place, person, &c. as *now, then, where, who, &c.*

The primitive words are such, as are of the first and simplest position, as *love, long, when, &c.*

Derivatives are those as come from the said Primitives, and that either by adding some common prepositions or terminations, or by conjunction of two or more radixes together.

Concerning words of Action.

The Primitives of those words we suppose to be such as are indefinite neither to *Verb* or *Noun*, or something that is neither *Verb* nor *Noun*, but that out of which both proceed; for instance, the Latine Radix or primitive *am*, is indifferent to *Verb* or *Noun*, and is made either by the additions, as

am-o am-as am-or am-icus, &c.

Of the Primitives, for abbreviation, there might be a derivation supposed, as that of those which in the main end agree, but differ in Quality, Proportion, &c. that which seemeth in signification to be the simplest, to be placed as the Radix, and the rest as derivatives.

For instance.

1. Those which are in signification directly opposite, the worthier put for the Radix, as

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------|
| to Curse, | } | to Blesse, |
| to Feed, | | to Fast, |
| to Live, | | to Die. |

B

2 Those

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2 Those which have a graduall difference, as

to Go, Run, Trot, Amble:

to Speak, Read, Preach, Call:

to Smile, Laugh, &c.

Unto these might be added a derivation in respect to these following conignifications.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1 a custom to act, | } as { | to be accustomed to swearing. |
| 2 a simulating of action | | to imitate crying or singing. |
| 3 an inchoation, | | to begin to do a thing. |
| 4 an incination or desire | | Esurio Lat. |
| 5 a diminution, | | to sing low. |
| 6 a negation, | | not to sing. |

More of like conignifications might be added, of which these may serve as instances.

The *Verb*, the first derivation hath under it the distinction of *Moode* and *Tense*.

Mood is the manner of expression, which is either *Indicative* or *Imperative*, as for those other *Moods*, namely, the *Optative*, *Potentiall*, and *Subjunctive*, they may be all supplied by the *Indicative*, with their signes added, as *that*, *when*.

The *Imperative* *Moode* is discernable without variation, from the *Indicative* *Mood* thus.

i By a post-posing of the personall auxiliary word, which in the *Indicative* should be preposed, as

Imperative { Go thou,
 { Go we,

Indicative { Thou goest,
 { We go.

2 By

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2 By standing without the personall word; as

Go to the doore.

The *Infinitive Mood* may likewise be known by the signe[10] as *teach him*[10] *read*.

The *Tenses* are three, *Past*, *Present*, *Future*.

The *Present Tense* being the first, will need no distinction in respect to the other *Tenses*, namely, the *Past*, and the *Future*, which may have their distinctionall additions. —

The *Past Tense* is commonly distinguished in three parts;

Preterit. imperfect,
Perfect,
Plus perfect.

The *Imperfect* and *Perfect* might without inconvenience be united in one, and so have one distinctionall addition. —

The *Plus perfect* may remain distinguished, yet as a sub distinction unto the *Perfect Tense*.

Unto the *Future* might be added a sub-distinction, and named the *Conditionall Future*; for instance,

If he had done that I should have loved him.

The distinction for *Person* and *Number* in the *Verb* is needlesse, it being sufficient when the same is performed in the *Noun*, for instance,

I love,
we love,
ye love,
they love.

} What with
more is needlesse.

Of Nouns.

The *Noun*, the second derivation, is either Common or Proper.

By Common, we understand those Nouns which are not proper names of things, but common Derivatives from most *Verbs*, as *Lover, Loved, Love, Loveliness, &c.*

By Proper names we understand those names of substances, whether reall or fictitious, whereby they are distinguished in their species or individuum, as

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <i>Man,</i> | <i>Horse,</i> | <i>Table,</i> | <i>House, &c.</i> |
| <i>Peter,</i> | <i>Thomas,</i> | <i>Pretty,</i> | <i>Palace, &c.</i> |

The common *Nouns* I have distinguished in nine distinctions, as follow.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>The action denominated.</p> <p><i>Amor</i> <i>Lectio</i> <i>Visio</i></p> | <p>2</p> <p>That acteth.</p> <p><i>Amator</i> <i>Lector</i></p> | <p>3</p> <p>On whom acted.</p> <p><i>Amatus</i></p> |
| <p>4</p> <p>Inclination to action.</p> <p><i>Amorofus</i> <i>Audax</i> <i>Communicativus</i></p> | <p>5</p> <p>Qualification to receive the actio.</p> <p><i>Amabilis</i> <i>Legibilis</i></p> | <p>6</p> <p>The excessse of the action.</p> <p><i>Amabundus</i> <i>Drunk</i></p> |

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7
Of or belonging to an
action or thing.

Doctrinalis

8
The abstract of
denomination.

Amorositas
Docibilitas

9
The manner of
being or acting.

Amorose
Docibiliter.

Note that the eighth and ninth distinctions are double derivatives, and applicable to the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh distinctions. —

The seventh distinction is likewise applicable to words proper, as to denominate any one from the place of his birth, as from

Rome a Roman,
Naples a Neapolitan, &c.

Or from his Calling, as a *Clothier* from *Cloth-making*,
a *Barber* from *Cutting of beards*.

There are four distinctions more, which because they seem more as Proper names than Common names, we have placed them by themselves, as

1
The instrument
wherewith is
chiefly acted, as

from to See
the Eye

2
The time of
action
the hour of

Dining
Supping

3
The place
of action,
as of
drinking wine.

a Tavern
of beer or ale,
an Alehouse.

4
The substance
of the action

Meat
Drink

OF

Of the nine distinctions of *Nouns* Common, the first, second, and eighth are only Substantives, the rest all Adjectives; the four last distinctions are all Substantives.

No distinction for Number is needfull to the Nouns Adjectives, for their number is sub-understood in the Substantives unto which they relate.

The substantives need likewise no distinction of Number, except they intend a plural number Indefinite; as There were *Men*, which because no by-standing word will expresse the plurality according to our position, therefore the plurality is to be distinguished by addition in the word *Man*. But if the plurality be defined by the words, *One, Ten, many, &c.* as

ten pound, } the distinction in the words defining
many pound. } are sufficient without more.

The *Verb passive* is made of the third distinction of Nouns common before mentioned, with the aiding *Verb, to be*; as

I am beloved,
Thou shalt be beloved.

The proper names of things to give them signification, is the work, we suppose, of a sound Philosopher, who from the knowledge of things and their order in nature, should give them names accordingly, describing that in them by their name, by which in the naming they may be known.

The Cases of Nouns, as the *Genitive, Dative, and Ablative* may be distinguished by the signes, *of, to, from*, adjoyned.

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The *Passive* or *Accusative* will be known by its place in the order of Words, as hereafter.

The second sort of Radixes

Are those of quality; as, *hot, cold, &c.*

The number of which might be diminished by a subordination as before in the *Verbs* was noted, for instance,

First, the opposition in signification, as $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{Hot, Cold,} \\ \textit{Soft, Hard, \&c.} \end{array} \right.$

Secondly, the graduall difference, as $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{Hot, Warm :} \\ \textit{Wet, Moist, \&c.} \end{array} \right.$

Of these Qualitative words may proceed *Verbs* signifying action; using only the Radix, without any significative words adjoyned; as,

I hot, or *make hot,* or *heat,*
I cold, or *make cold, \&c.*

Secondly, *Verbs passive*, but with a distinctionall addition; as, *I become Hot, Cold, \&c.*

Unto these *Verbs* might likewise be appropriated the significations before mentioned; as,

I am accustomed to *make hot,* to *become hot,*
I begin to *make hot* to *become hot, \&c.*

Those Qualitative words have derivatives of the same nature with the eighth sort of *Nouns* common; as,

Hotnesse, *Coldnesse.*

Unto

Unto these Qualitative words, as unto the former names appellative, belongeth an augmentation and diminution, with their comparative and superlative degrees, as

| <i>Positive,</i> | <i>Comparative,</i> | <i>Superlative</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Diminution, Augmentation. | Diminution, Augmentation. | Diminution, Augmentation. |
| <i>a little man, a great man.</i> | <i>a lesser man, a greater man.</i> | <i>least man, greatest man.</i> |

The Auxiliary Words.

The third sort of Radicall words which are according to Grammar nominated, *Pronouns, Adverbs, Prepositions, Interjections, and Conjunctions.*

The Pronouns,

I, thou, he, this, that, may be radicall: the Plurall, *we, ye, they, these, those,* may have an additionall signe of plurality: From these may derivatively proceed of the eighth sort of Common names:

Ego-itas ipse-itas, &c

The other following sorts may be reduced to a certain number, and the number probably lessened by a subordination as before.

The Nouns numerall might be thus described in Language. Suppose nine single consonants for the nine first numbers from one to nine inclusive; and nine Vowels for nine dignities, each increasing ten times the value of the other; the first Vowell to signify only the single value of the nine Consonants, in which place the second Vowell comming to signify the Decimall dignity; the third, the Centenall; and so forth, this in conjunction you may expresse in few syllables, and without reiteration a very large number.

The

The principles or Groundwork of our new Language and Writing proposed, the application we thus prescribe.

First, we prescribe a collection of all the Radixes of the three sorts of words before mentioned, wherein care should be had to ordain for Radixes none but those which are really such. Secondly, rightly to order a subordination of them as is before required; the same thus ordered should be the contents of the first part of the *Lexicon*, and for the wording of those radicall significations, it will be pre-required to have ordained a certain number of single sounds both of Vowels and Consonants, really such, and which may constantly keepe their stated sounds without alteration, out of which the foresaid Radixes should be worded. Thus might these Radixes be ordered and ranked, first, in their sounds in any known Language, thereto adjoining the new invented words for the same. —

The second part of the said *Lexicon* should contain all the proper names of things, given them according to the forementioned requisites. —

The second Book required to be the Law of this new Language and Writing, wherein all the Rules aforementioned to be set down with such more as shall be found requisite, which should be constant, never suffering the least deviation when once stated: these Rules thus being not many, and being constant without any Anomalies or exceptions, would be no great burthen to memory. —

Note, For the wording of the Radixes, our advise would be, that all such ordained words should be Monosyllables, containing a certain number of letters, among which but one Vowell, and that never used but in the Radix, and in all Radixes. Secondly, that all the distinctionall additions

C

signi-

significant; be all Consonants, and the Vowelling of them to be left at pleasure; also to place them where he please, & to make one or more syllables as he shall please, only that in so doing of them, he seem not to divide them in more words then one. Secondly, that he divide not the Radix: Our reason for this liberty is, that from the vowels have proceeded the greatest variations of Languages, whose force therefore in this Language we advise to be abated. —

The different placing of words in severall Languages, hath produced no small inconvenience to the learners of a new Language, who in that new learned Language remain still subject to observe the order of their first known Language, from whence often proceedeth a harshness to the understanding of such misordered sentences: To prevent which inconvenience, and to maintain, if possible, the constancie of our new Language, we have endeavoured by a collection of the most, if not all the sentences or forms of speech, & in them propounded an order for all the words; which, or a better, when obtained, we would recommend as a constant rule to be observed, and to have its place in our Grammar or Law of Language.

| Sentences as we ordinarily expresse them. | The same according to our proposed order. | Their distinction. |
|--|--|---|
| John? <i>lovesth</i> Mary. <i>who</i> } | John <i>lovesth</i> Mary <i>who</i> } | 1 The Noun Agent or 2 The Verb. Relative. 3 The Noun Patient. |
| <i>A short stick</i> <i>A rod of Iron</i> <i>His Book</i> <i>Johns Book</i> | <i>Stick short</i> <i>Rod of Iron</i> <i>Book his</i> <i>Book Johns</i> | 1 the Thing. 2 Its description or relation. <i>Is</i> |

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Is loved
Is spent

Is loved }
Is spent }

{ 1 The Auxiliary Verb.
{ 2 The Noun Adjective.

This man
That thing

This man }
That thing }

{ 1 The demonstrative.
{ 2 The demonstrated.

I have seen the thing

I have seen thing

The word *the* left out.

It was done
It hapned
There hapned

Was done }
Hapned }
Hapned }

The word *is, there,* left out.

William is loved
of his father

William is loved
of father his

{ 1 The Noun Patient.
{ 2 The Verb,
{ 3 The Noun Agent.

John and Peter
travelled together to
Rome, Peter ran
hastily to London

John and Peter
travelled together to
Rome, Peter ran
hastily to London

{ 1 The Agent.
{ 2 The Verb.
{ 3 The Manner.
{ 4 The place.

Thomas is much loved of
his Father

Thomas is loved much of
Father his

(tient.
{ 1 the Noun Pa-
{ 2 the Verb.
{ 3 the manner.
{ 4 the agent.

Thomas did beat his
man very hard on
the back with
a stick

Thomas did beat
man his very hard
with stick on
back

{ 1 the Noun Agent.
{ 2 the Verb.
{ 3 the Noun patient.
{ 4 the manner.
{ 5 the instrument.
{ 6 the part suffering.

*Yesterday John
went to France*

idem

When time is expressed, it
should alwayes precede
the action, &c.

*With him,
From him,
To Spain.*

idem

The Auxiliary words, *with,*
to, from, &c. to precede
the object.

I love him not.

I love not him.

1 The Agent.
2 The Verb.
3 The Negation.
4 The Patient.

Did use to say.

idem

1 The Verb.
2 The Infinitive Mood.

*There are people
in the yard.*

*In yard are
people.*

1 The place where.
2 The Auxiliary Verb.
3 Who.

*I give thee this.
He held his hand
on them.*

*I give this to thee.
He held hand his
on them.*

1 The Agent.
2 The Verb.
3 The Patient.
4 on, to, from, &c.

*Do ye help them?
Help ye them.*

Interrog.
Imperat.

Help ye them

1 The Verb.
2 The Agent.
3 The Patient.

Whom ye know.

idem

1 The Relative.
2 The Agent.
3 The Verb.

For

For the plainer expression, and easier understanding of speech, it were best to convert all particples in other manner of expression, neglecting the use of them.

So much for application of the principles or grounds before proposed to our new Language, now followeth their application to our new writing: which as in this Introduction is not to have relation to sounds but things, wherefore, for all the radicall words of the three sorts as they stand, for such in the *Lexicon* are to have characters assigned them, which may be described anent the words there set down.

Then in the Grammar are to be described those additionall marks for the derivative distinctions, with rules for the use of them. —

Now that the Characters might be known, and readily found in the *Lexicon*, when the signification of any of them are desired to be known, we have pitched on this invention.

First, that ten single figures be invented, whereof, nine to signifie the nine single numbers, and one of them the Cypher. Suppose these or the like.

I / \ — C) U n O ∩

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Out of these might be framed Characters signifying any number more or lesse, as thus.

signifying :

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2
35
68
9050

signifying 235
3568
9050

Or else instead of the Character for the Cypher, you might draw a stroke through the Character of which the Cypher is to follow, thus

+ X X + C D W M O
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90.

And then if two Cyphers follow immediately one the other, then might you describe the first of them this way, and the second as before, as

for 900

for 9065

By these kinde of Characters might you describe or Characterize all the radical words comprised in the Lexicon, and in the order as they there stand, applying to the first the Character |; to the fifth, the Character C, to the fiftieth, the Character W or C, to the five-hundreth, the Character S; and so forth. Thus when the signification of a Character is required, knowing the order of it by its number con-signified, you may finde it out in the Lexicon: for instance:

Sup.

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Suppose the Character whose signification we would know, to be **S**, signifying in number 569, and suppose in the Lexicon we look for the said number, and so finde its radicall signification to *Love*, then the Grammer is supposed to have told us, that the prick on the right side doth signifie the Past Tense. from whence the signification may be concluded to be *Loved*.

The End.